



Clark County Regional Support Network Policy Statement

Policy No.: QM15
Policy Title: Child Abuse and Reporting
Effective Date: September 01, 2001

Policy: When a practitioner or other mental health professional has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect, he or she shall report such incident, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law enforcement agency or State Agency as provided in RCW 26.44.040. All PIHP contracted providers shall comply with State requirements for the reporting of such actual or suspected abuse

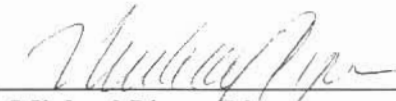
Reference: WAC 388-865, RCW 26.44.030, RCW 26.44.040

Procedure:

1. Each PIHP contracted provider shall have a policy and procedure for the reporting of such abuse.
2. All agency employees shall be informed of the agency policy.
3. Evidence that each employee has been informed of the policy and their reporting responsibilities shall be retained in their personnel file.
4. Each policy for the reporting of child abuse should at a minimum address the following points:
 - a) That the report shall be made at the first opportunity, but in no case longer than forty-eight hours after there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has suffered abuse or neglect.
 - b) That the report should be made to a law enforcement agency or the Department of Social and Health Services.
 - c) That the report can be made orally by telephone and, upon request, shall be followed by a report in writing.
 - d) That such reports must include the following:
 - i) The identity of the abuser, if known.
 - ii) The name, address and age of the child.
 - iii) The name and address of the child's parents, stepparents, guardians or other persons having custody of the child.
 - iv) The nature and extent of the injury or injuries, neglect and/or sexual abuse.
 - v) Any evidence of previous injuries or neglect, including their nature and extent.
 - vi) Any other information which may be helpful in establishing the cause of the child's death or injuries and the identity of the alleged perpetrator or perpetrators.

- e) That the reporting requirement does not apply to the discovery of abuse or neglect that occurred during childhood if it is discovered after the child has become an adult. However, if there is reasonable cause to believe other children are or may be at risk of abuse or neglect by the accused, the reporting requirement shall apply.
- f) That a record of the report must be clearly documented in the consumer's record.

Approved By: _____



Michael Piper, Director
Clark County
Department of Community Services

Date: _____

9-01-2007